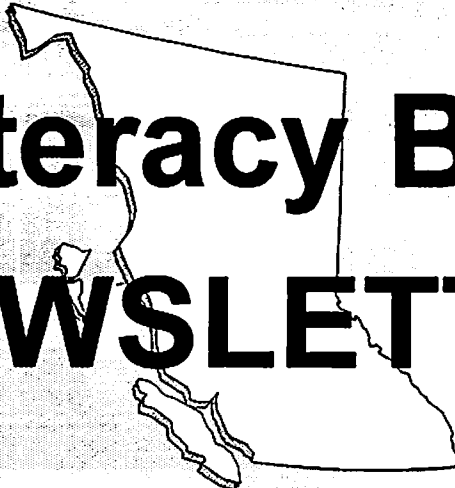


Literacy B.C. NEWSLETTER



May 1997

Volume 3, Number 2



Join the Walk for Literacy!

When and where?

**Sunday, May 25
Vancouver**

**Sunday, June 8
Courtenay
Cranbrook/Fernie
Parksville**

This spring people in four B.C. communities will walk to raise funds in support of local literacy programs and learners and to raise awareness about literacy.

Call Literacy B.C. and we will put you in touch with your local Walk organizers.

Phone: 1-800-663-1293. ☎

**Here's what you'll find inside this
issue of our newsletter :**

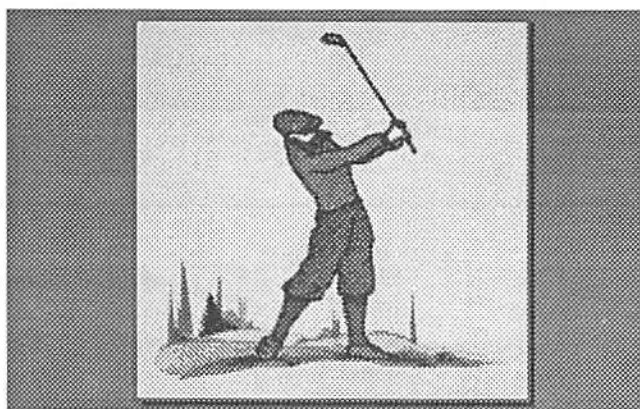
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Play a Round for Literacy!

The 1997 PGI Golf Tournament

Thursday, July 10, 1997

University Golf Club
Vancouver



This year's PGI is hosted by Hockey Night in Canada's Ron MacLean. Ron will be joined by Peter Mansbridge of CBC television's *The National*, Bob Robertson and Linda Cullen of CBC Radio's *Double Exposure*, and many other celebrities.

The 1997 PGI will be as much fun as always with music, special on-course

activities, and lots of great prizes - for duffers and serious golfers!

The tournament fee is \$175 which includes a golf gift, prizes, lunch, and dinner. Tax receipts will be issued and all proceeds will benefit Literacy B.C.

To register, contact Literacy B.C.
Phone: 684-0624.

This all started in 1986 when I promised to raise a million dollars for literacy. One hundred PGIs and over \$4 million later - and counting - here we are. We're still going strong. Please come out in 1997 to celebrate the year of the 100th PGI. With your support a lot of Canadians will be turned on to literacy.

*Peter Gzowski
Author, Broadcaster, & Founder
of the PGIs*



Announcing the William M. Mercer Provincial Learner Award

We are pleased to announce a generous new sponsor for this very special award. William M. Mercer, the world's largest employee benefits company, is proud to sponsor the Provincial Learner Award which recognizes the outstanding achievements of an adult learner in B.C.

The \$500 award, to be presented at the 1997 Literacy B.C. Annual General Meeting in October 1997, will be announced at this year's PGI.

To be eligible for the award, the learner must:

- ◆ have attended a literacy/ABE program for at least six months, and preferably a year
- ◆ have an excellent attendance record
- ◆ obtain a recommendation from a teacher or tutor
- ◆ have shown substantial or exceptional progress

The winner is chosen by a committee of adult learners. The deadline for applications is **June 20, 1997**.

Contact Literacy B.C. for an application form.

Who We Are

Our mission is to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships, and to present a united voice on literacy.

We are supported by the B.C. Ministry of Education, Skills, and Training; the National Literacy Secretariat; memberships; and donations.

Here's how you can reach us:

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Donations to Literacy B.C. are tax deductible.

News from across B.C.

It's time for the annual networking issue of the Literacy B.C. Newsletter!

Each year at this time we feature news from community groups across B.C. This year we also have reports from the six B.C. Regional Literacy Coordinators. The Coordinators are part of the Regional Literacy Networks project, funded by the B.C. literacy cost-shared program.

Thank you to everyone who contributed a report this year.

From Vancouver Island:

Regional Literacy Coordinator for Malaspina/North Island

Contact: Norah McLean
Phone/Fax: (250) 338-9906
Email: nrmclean@island.net

I have been the regional literacy coordinator for the Malaspina/North Island region since October 1995. It has been an exciting and rewarding experience and I look forward to the new challenges and work I will encounter next year.

One of my roles is to provide professional development opportunities for people in the region. On May 9 we held a workshop for literacy practitioners and tutors at Malaspina University College in Nanaimo. The topics included: success and motivation; teaching writing and reading; and confidentiality.

I also organize meetings for volunteer tutor coordinators in the region. Coordinators from the region met this year in Parksville to share information about their work and about literacy issues and concerns in their communities. These meetings will continue at least two or three times a year.

Providing support and consultation to individuals who are starting up new tutoring programs is another important aspect of regional coordination. We hope to see a volunteer tutoring program up and running in Port Hardy and in Ladysmith/Chemainus very soon.

It has been wonderful providing mentorship to learner Ingrid Braathen. Ingrid is a board member of Literacy B.C. and co-author of the book, *Walk for Literacy: A Step in the Right Direction*. Ingrid and I meet weekly to work on developing networking skills using the Internet and the B.C. literacy electronic network.

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"Regional Literacy Coordinator" from page 5

A regional literacy resource collection is now housed in the Vancouver Island Regional Library in Courtenay. I encourage everyone in the region to look to the library for resources. Please contact me for information on the contents of the collection.

The six regional literacy coordinators meet two or three times a year in Vancouver and communicate regularly through conference calls and the B.C. literacy electronic network. It has

been one of the best groups I have ever had the pleasure of working with. The success of the project, and the cohesive atmosphere of the regional coordinators team, is due to the women who are involved and also to the positive environment sustained by Mary Thompson Boyd. Mary, the Coordinator of Training and Regional Development for Literacy B.C., has been a constant source of encouragement, support, and professional advice for every aspect of our work in the regions.

Community Adult Literacy and Learning Society (CALLS) - Courtenay

Contact: Norah McLean
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Email: nrmclean@island.net

CALLS, a non-profit organization, supports the Adult Learning Centre in Courtenay. We receive funds from Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), the Ministry of Education, Skills and Training (MoEST), fund raising events, and donations from the community.

At our easy-to-find Adult Learning Centre in downtown Courtenay, we offer one-on-one tutoring to adults in the Comox Valley. Volunteer tutors

receive four days of training and make a commitment to tutor for at least six months.

Our other activities include a family literacy project, now in its second year. It is funded by the Vancouver Foundation and HRDC.

A steering committee of students meets weekly to plan events. Our Learners Event took place on April 27 and we are working on our third annual Walk for Literacy on June 8. We depend on volunteers to help us with planning and promoting the Walk.

We are able to offer these valuable services in the Comox Valley through the generous commitment that is made by our volunteers and the support of our community.

**The Write Place
Project Literacy Parksville/
Qualicum**

Contact: Liz Campbell
Phone: (250) 248-4041
Fax: (250) 248-4042

The Write Place offers scribe services such as resume preparation and help with applications, letters, problem-solving and referrals. Staff also support the volunteer tutoring program which continues to be operated in partnership with Malaspina University College. Training sessions of 36 hours are held spring and fall.

We were closed last summer, after which Project Literacy Parksville/Qualicum was awarded two contracts for the current fiscal year. A \$25,000 cost-shared grant runs to August 31, 1997 and a \$13,500 cost-shared grant from Strategic Initiatives - ACR, a committee made up of HRDC and MoEST, ended March 31, 1997.

We also have a bingo licence and hold regular fund raising and public awareness events. Our fourth annual Walk for Literacy will be held Sunday, June 8. Our part-time staff member is currently working on heightening our profile within the community and expanding our volunteer base.

We will soon participate in the B.C. literacy electronic network. Students from The Write Place will act as moderators for on-line discussions through a provincial learner chat-line.

Literacy Nanaimo

Contact: Carolyn McWhinnie
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Email: nanlit@nanaimo.ark.com

We have operated a downtown centre for six years. In partnership with Malaspina University College we fund a tutor coordinator. The college pays for a half-time position from September to March and we bring the position up to full-time and cover the balance of the year. This year our revenues were down and we had to considerably reduce the tutor coordinator hours from April through August. We have about 65 tutor/learner pairs working per month. Normally, two groups of 25 are trained per year.

We also operate a used bookstore. All books are donated and the store is staffed by volunteers. In addition to revenue, the store provides opportunities for individuals to gain work experience and the community to access information about literacy.

We continue to coordinate the BEARS and BEAMS -- Being Enthusiastic About Reading (or Math) -- programs. Volunteers help children -- identified by teachers as needing more attention -- with reading and math. Our role is to keep track of the volunteers, generate publicity, and run workshops.

We have also arranged with the Nanaimo transit authority to display literacy signs on local buses.



**The Learners' Network
Project Literacy Victoria**

Contact: Susan Kurushima
Phone: (250) 381-3755
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We have experienced many changes this past year. In May 1996 we officially became a United Way member agency. We have moved downtown to a new office. We have doubled our space and reduced our costs thanks to an arrangement with the developer Bosa Ventures Inc. and the City of Victoria. On International Literacy Day we celebrated with a VIP reception and a public open house. The opening ceremony featured a presentation of the new office keys and a speech by Learner Award winner Phyllis Jones.

In October 1996, Bolen Books hosted the first Masquerade Ball to benefit PLV and the United Way. This gala event was held in Hillside Shopping Mall and featured a gourmet buffet, dancing to the Belvedere

Broadcasters, extravagant costumes and masks, as well as entertainment throughout the evening. This event was conceived by bookstore owner Mel Bolen and was great fun for all involved. Volunteer committees are now busy planning our 9th annual PGI golf tournament for June 25 and used book sale for August 23.

For their last learner event, the *Learners Helping Learners* group wrote and produced a play about their struggles to become literate. This work formed the basis for a cost-shared project. The group, under the leadership of drama therapist Linda Whitman, has written and produced two plays which have been performed at three public events during the year. They are documenting their feelings and reactions in journals which will form part of the publication about the project.

A new Reading and Parenting course was piloted with a group of young parents from a local organization called C.O.P.E. (Challenges of Parenting Effectively). Parents and



Bolen Books invites you
to support Project Literacy Victoria at the

Masquerade

for literacy



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"Learners' Network " from page 7

kids were enthusiastic about the course and were sorry to see it end. Written materials are currently being prepared for publication and will be launched to community groups in June and distributed throughout the province this summer.

The Learners' Network program has selected and trained three groups of new tutors and is finishing a program evaluation. Over 150 learners are served in this program each year. We have published Volume 3 of *The Learner's Voice*, a collection of learners' stories, and the learners' group is finishing a cookbook which will be available at the learner event in May.

Victoria READ Society

Contact: Melanie Austin

Phone: (250) 388-7225

Fax: (250) 386-8330

READ Festival

Our 6th annual READ Festival on April 11 was another huge success this year. A sell-out crowd of over 400 had a wonderful evening.

Bill Richardson from CBC Radio was our Master of Ceremonies. He introduced seven award-winning poets as well as our own adult literacy student, Lorne Dundas. Lorne explained with pride how he struggled through reading classes and is now able to read to his niece's new baby.

Poet Linda Rogers announced the Dorothy Livesay Bursary. Each year the money raised from this event goes to children who need help learning but cannot afford READ classes.

Bursary Program for children

Last year the bursary fund gave money to 87 children in READ classes. Most of them struggle at levels two or more years behind their classmates. They need one-to-one direct instruction and to know that they can learn and succeed.

Classes for Adults

We continue to offer our Adult Basic Skills class. This year we added classes funded by MoEST for adults on income assistance to give them help with reading, writing and math in preparation for jobs. Students also get entry level workplace certificates such as Food Safe.

English as a second language

We added ESL for Work and New Hope to our LINC classes this year. These programs focus on learning English to find and keep a job. In the New Hope program the instructor teaches speaking, reading and writing skills to the student right on the job.

Literacy Materials Bulletin

This year we continued to sponsor the *Literacy Materials Bulletin*. As always, it will be a great resource for any literacy program, class or library. *Bulletin #15* will be distributed soon.



*From the Fraser Valley:***Abbotsford Literacy Association**

Contact: Wendy Watson
Phone: (250) 845-4533
Fax: (250) 855-7558

Reading Rascals, our family literacy pilot program, continues at the John MacLure Community School and has expanded to include all kindergarten students and their families.

Reading Rascals runs for six weeks, featuring a different book each week. Each session includes story and craft time for the kindergarten children, story and play time for younger siblings, and a discussion time with the parents. This discussion focuses on the book of the week, oral reading strategies, and the importance of family reading in the development of children's reading skills. After every session, each family takes home a free book, the children's crafts, and some ideas for family activities around the theme of the book.

We were asked to extend the program into other area schools and are working toward that goal. Work has also begun on a "Starter's Kit." This kit would include book lists, assistance with story telling, oral reading strategies and ideas for crafts and family activities. We hope to make this kit available at a minimal cost to those who would like to begin a similar program in their communities.

Fraser Valley East Literacy Association - Chilliwack

Contact: Michelle Cole
Phone: 754-8988
Fax: (250) 754-8114

The Fraser Valley East Literacy Association (FVELA) is back! Last year was a time of regrouping and new life for this Chilliwack-based literacy organization. New executive members were added to the longstanding core group when Michelle Cole, chair, and Kim Van Dijk, secretary-treasurer, joined the association. Both come to us through their work with *Families in Motion*, the family literacy program which FVELA contributes to as a partner agency.

This winter, activities have revolved around providing Kim and Michelle with background about the work and past history of our group. An archival overhaul occurred in March as members brought together the existing tangible items that make up the Association. It was a real clearing of our resources and a good opportunity for members to work together. Now that the past has been ordered into a working body, we are looking toward next year's focus.

We are reviewing our constitution with an eye to drafting a fund raising support document. We are also initiating plans for a Walk for Literacy in our area in a year's time.

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"FVELA" from page 9

The work of other literacy organizations in B.C. is very inspirational to our membership and contributes to our discussion of goal setting. We have been working hard in our cocoon this year - watch for our butterfly to appear soon!

Mission Literacy Association

Contact: Heather Stewart
Phone/Fax: 820-3369

Together with the Mission Native Housing Society, we successfully completed a family literacy cost-shared project at the Fraser Crescent Native Housing Complex in December 1996.

Classroom activities from our *Learning to Learn Together* family literacy project



We also established a collection of project reports and curriculum materials produced by our other cost-shared projects. These are available to teachers, tutors and students for study and are located at the Mission campus of the University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV).

Along with several other community agencies, in 1996 we continued a minor involvement with the *Partners in Learning* project. We are also members of the Community Access to Education and Training (CAET) committee which meets monthly.

To promote the community's awareness of our organization, we set up an information table at Route '96, an education and training information fair produced by the CAET committee. An article about the *Learning to Learn* project, community notices about tutor training, and paid advertisements helped to promote additional public awareness. An article was submitted to the *Healthy Communities Newsletter*. Our most productive event in terms of awareness was our participation in the 1996 annual Mission Showcase where we shared a booth with the Mission Library.

Our major and ongoing project is tutor training. We will continue our commitment to community tutoring in the coming year. We will also continue to make a concerted effort to promote public awareness and a strengthened membership.

*From the Okanagan:***Regional Literacy Coordinator
for the Okanagan**

Contact: Maureen Stephens
 Phone: (250) 862-5488, Ext. 4244
 Fax: (250) 862-5432
 Email: mstephen@schdist23.bc.ca

I am the regional literacy coordinator for the Okanagan. I am also a literacy instructor and tutor trainer for the adult reading program at the Kelowna campus of Okanagan University College (OUC). I have been involved in literacy work for ten years.

My work as regional coordinator presents a new challenge and dimension to my literacy responsibilities. Literacy practitioners are experts in working long, odd hours and, in my situation, the hours seem longer and even more odd. The rewards are the contacts I am making in the Okanagan community and the information and consultation I am able to provide. This commitment to regional development in literacy compels me to make contact with government and community agencies in the Okanagan valley. The greatest challenge is building partnerships with groups who have not previously worked together.

There are several successes to report. In April 1996 we held a regional tutor event. Sixty tutors attended workshops on such topics as learning styles, working with an ESL student, self-esteem building, and the Tutor's

Toolbox. It was a smashing event and another is planned for September.

More community development took place last September as Project Literacy Kelowna (PLK) presented two workshops for all Kelowna tutors. Author/tutor Sheila Paynter presented an entertaining writer's workshop and Jean Lee, PLK's tutor trainer, shared her expertise. A literacy corner was introduced at OUC's Career Fair, providing the public with information, brochures, and posters about services available in each valley community.

A family literacy workshop presented by Barbara Bate of the University College of the Fraser Valley was a catalyst for further community building. Three family literacy proposals were submitted from the Okanagan and new partnerships are reflected in these applications. A "Literacy Dialogue" for valley literacy practitioners and a round table discussion on the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) are planned for May.

The role of the regional coordinator is becoming more important as the need to unlock partnership possibilities and connect agencies and private providers becomes a priority for government and funders. I am looking forward to the challenges on the horizon. My job is made easier by the interaction of the other regional coordinators who provide an excellent model of partnership building and networking skills. I thank Mary Thompson Boyd for being our glue!

Project Literacy Kelowna**Contact: Maxine Veach****Phone: (250) 762-2163****Fax: (250) 862-2922**

We are having an exciting and busy year. Two new programs were established. We also continue to place trained tutors in our school district's alternative school for young people and to offer adult one-to-one tutoring.

Volunteers with our "Youth Literacy Outreach Drop-In" program provide out-of-school youth with immediate help with letters, forms, and other documents. The service -- available weekly at local organizations like the community food bank -- provides literacy assistance and information about further basic literacy opportunities. By offering drop-in assistance at places that are already familiar to young people with low literacy skills, we are one step closer to helping them choose to help themselves.

Participating in a large classroom is often very stressful for adult learners and this fear prevents them from continuing an education that they would otherwise be quite competent to attempt. The "Small Groups Bridging Classroom" gives groups of up to five learners an opportunity to participate in an ongoing classroom with a teacher, textbooks, and classmates. This twice-weekly class gives learners confidence and the opportunity to learn the social norms and academic expectations that

come with classroom studies. The group classroom gives advanced learners the opportunity to work together and frees more volunteer tutors to work with beginning learners.

Our Storefront School tutor placement program continues to provide exciting results. Volunteer tutors work in the classroom with students who request assistance with their studies and provide regular individual reading assistance to all students.

Attendance levels at the school have increased since the volunteers began participating. Students have taken advantage of the tutors' expertise and their overall grades and self-esteem have improved significantly. PLK volunteers help approximately 240 students at the school each year.

We expect to serve up to 60 learners in the coming year through our one-to-one tutoring program. Many learners find employment within months of beginning their literacy lessons. In addition to improved literacy skills, the visible increase in learners' self-esteem greatly improves their chances of employment. We have seen many success stories unfold -- for our learners and their families -- in the past few months.

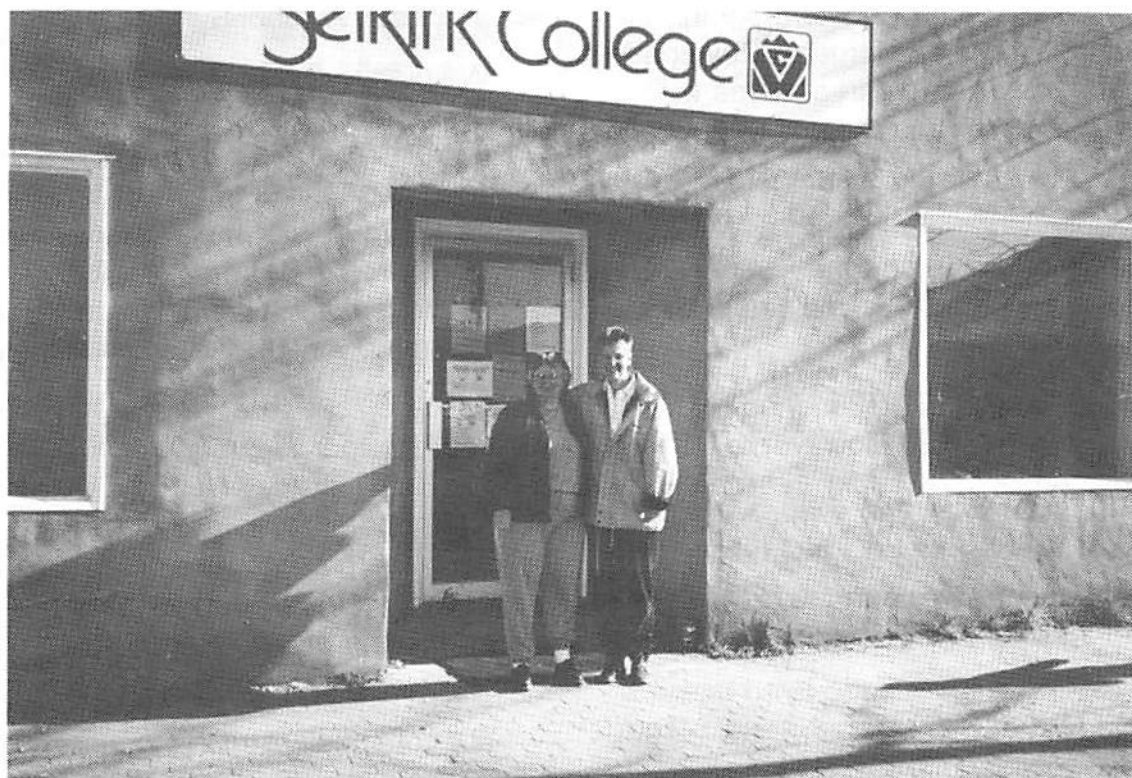
By promoting our service and informing the community about literacy issues, we let people know about the importance of literacy training. We are enthusiastic about our ability to meet our growing community's varied and changing literacy needs.

**Regional Literacy Coordinator
for Selkirk****Contact: Jennifer Cliff-Marks****Phone: (250) 265-4193****Fax: (250) 265-3616****Email: jcliff-marks@hubcap.mlnet.com**

It has been exciting for me this year to continue the regional coordination work Sue Port started in 1995. I owe a great deal of thanks to the learner I mentor, Ginette Fortin. Ginette is an ABE student at Selkirk College in Nakusp. I am sure Ginette must have wondered what she was getting into when she agreed to work with me. We have travelled together to various

workshops and learner events in the Kootenays, and Ginette has helped me with many details of my job, including chopping veggies for lunches. Thank you, Ginette!

A number of special events were sponsored in the Kootenays through the regional coordination project. Barbara Bate facilitated a family literacy workshop in Nakusp in November. In April, tutors and tutor coordinators from seven communities participated in a professional development day. A tutor coordinator workshop was held in February. Linda Mitchell of Literacy B.C. was in Castlegar and Nakusp in April to discuss the IALS.



(from left to right) Ginette Fortin and Jennifer Cliff-Marks

Project Literacy West Kootenay

Castlegar

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Nakusp

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Slocan Lake

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Grand Forks

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Nelson

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Trail

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Our area has grown now to cover almost all of the Selkirk region thanks to a cost-shared grant. We welcome new coordinators Christy Luke in Grand Forks and Margaret Raymond in the Slocan Lake area. (See the next page for reports from Christy and Margaret.)

It's been wonderful having a regional literacy coordinator again. Jennifer Cliff-Marks has ably followed in Sue Port's footsteps.

One-on-one tutoring continues to be our primary focus. However, a very active group, *The Lucky Learners*, has been meeting weekly in the Castlegar library. This group organized a learner event on May 3. Learners prepared mini-lessons that they shared with others.

We held a regional tutor in-service this spring and used local resource people. It was great networking with other tutors

and the sessions were very informative. Participants learned more about learning disabilities, communication, and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome / Effect.

We plan to continue our public awareness campaign on literacy issues. The IALS presentations in April were part of this, as are continuing small group informational sessions. It looks promising that some local employers are becoming interested in pursuing workplace literacy initiatives.

The Project Literacy West Kootenay coordinators will soon participate in the B.C. literacy electronic network. We hope electronic conferencing will keep the group better connected to each other and to other literacy practitioners in B.C.

We're pleased with our past year but are continually striving to increase our profile.

By Trish Harrison

**Report from Grand Forks
by Christy Luke**

Project Literacy just got started in Grand Forks in September 1996.

This year was full of discoveries and learning by trial and error. We had a good response to the tutor training session held in December, but it was difficult to come up with a schedule that worked for all the tutors. In the end, we did a full weekend with two Wednesday evening sessions surrounding it. Two tutors were not able to make every session, and I have struggled with how to ensure they were brought up to speed.

With my tutors, I faced challenges as we encountered learners who, despite enthusiastic beginnings and good progress, stopped coming for a variety of reasons - often with no explanation. We also faced cultural misunderstandings, and I grappled with the need for a wider range of materials to offer the tutors.

It's been a year of great learning - perhaps inevitable in a new program. I'm left with a desire for more training and workshops so I can better serve the tutors and learners.

**Report from the Slocan Lake
area by Margaret Raymond**

I have been the local literacy coordinator in the Slocan Lake area since March 1, 1997. I spend at least one day per week working in this position and the rest of the week is devoted to providing workshops and consulting services on the topic of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effects. Actually, the two jobs share a number of overlapping issues and concerns.

The Slocan Lake area is a rural, primary resource-dependent community. Interestingly, tutors have been easier to recruit than students. Presently, we have only one active student and about a dozen volunteer tutors. To increase the student participation rate, I am writing articles to promote literacy issues for the local weekly newspaper, and diversifying the volunteer focus to promote awareness of our services. Hopefully, the volunteers and I will be successful with some or all of the following ideas: initiating learning projects in the schools; developing and providing beginner and intermediate adult literacy courses; activating beginner and intermediate adult journal writing clubs; organizing and producing a media literacy event; establishing a partnership with local industries and government to promote literacy awareness; and organizing a fund raising dance tentatively planned for August in Silverton.

**Regional Literacy Coordinator
for the East Kootenays****Contact: Leona Gadsby****Phone: (250) 342-3210****Fax: (250) 342-9221****Email: lgadsby@rockies.net**

Almost every community in the East Kootenays has access to a literacy/upgrading program. Some of these are offered by the College of the Rockies and some are offered by the community's school district or skills centre. College programs are a combination of classroom instruction and one-to-one tutoring, and school district programs are generally computer-based, particularly using the Pathfinder system. There are also workplace programs at the Crestbrook Mill in Cranbrook, Canal Flats, and Elko which use the Plato system as a base for instruction.

Because of the funding difficulties that seem to be a perennial problem for literacy programs, this year many students learned about the politics of funding and took an active role by writing letters about their educational situations.

Following a workshop with Barbara Bate about planning for family literacy

programs, people from community agencies met with literacy instructors to discuss the need for family literacy programs. There is widespread recognition that people could benefit from a coordinated effort by all service agencies to provide literacy instruction to all age groups and in more varied formats. A regional cost-shared proposal was developed by people in almost every community. They hope that it will help them to plan family literacy initiatives thoroughly and realistically and to build on services that are already available.

Linda Mitchell of Literacy B.C. visited the region in April to present two workshops on IALS and its implications for business, education and society in general. There will be a Walk for Literacy in Cranbrook on June 8 which will be attended by people from throughout the region. It is being planned by a group of learners and tutors from the College in Cranbrook. Also in June, the Literacy Charity Golf Tournament will be held at Radium Hot Springs. This is the fourth annual tournament, and funds raised will be shared by the Invermere Public Library and the literacy program at the College of the Rockies in Invermere.

**Regional Literacy Coordinator
for New Caledonia**

Contact: Paula Davies
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As regional literacy coordinator in the New Caledonia area I have had a challenging and rewarding experience over the past two years. Supporting the work done by literacy practitioners in this region has been a constant source of joy and stimulation.

Some of the activities that have occurred in the region this year are:

Professional Development

- ◆ The Adult Basic Education Association hosted a two day professional development event in Chetwynd.
- ◆ Volunteer literacy coordinators met for one day in December to discuss issues and concerns related to one-on-one literacy delivery.
- ◆ Barbara Bate presented a one day workshop on family literacy to over 35 participants from throughout the region.
- ◆ Howard Eaton, of Vancouver, presented a one day workshop on learning disabilities.
- ◆ Stacey Huget, from Literacy B.C. delivered three public presentations on the IALS findings.

Free Press

For over a year, the *Weekly Reader*, a page of community news written at a literacy level, has appeared once a week in the *Prince George Free Press*.

Family Literacy Stamp

In the fall, a public campaign was undertaken to encourage business, institutions, agencies and individuals to buy the family literacy stamp. Over \$500 was generated by this initiative.

Regional Visits

Last year I was able to visit literacy programs in six communities throughout the New Caledonia region and will visit more in May and June of this year. Through these visits I learn more about the literacy work going on in our region and about the issues and concerns of literacy practitioners.

Regional Newsletter

A regional newsletter is distributed to literacy practitioners throughout the area twice a year. It is hoped that the newsletter will keep literacy workers informed of new resources available from the regional collection, the issues and concerns of colleagues, professional development opportunities, and literacy programs and services throughout the region.

Resource Collection

Practitioners throughout the region continue to borrow materials from the regional resource collection. A new addition this year includes:

continued on page 18

"Regional Literacy Coordinator" from page 17

Growing Bolder: A Workbook on Growing Older and Herstory for Women in Literacy Programs

This lovely resource is a welcome addition to any literacy program. It was written by seven women in Ontario. The workbook format is inviting and friendly and was chosen "to give women a place to write their own ideas." The book begins with a look at "Women of Courage" and then asks students to write their herstory too. The final section is on growing older. A real jewel!



The Herstory of Women of Courage

**Nechako Literacy Society
Vanderhoof**

Contact: Sarah Thirsk
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Fax: (250)
Email: a1a44504bc.sympatico.ca

This year we received a cost-shared grant for the *Working Together* project. Our objectives are to: support literacy facilitators; introduce and promote literacy tutoring among adult learning programs; work with government agencies to develop a literacy audit/sensitivity package; and assist employers with the development of new employer-based literacy projects.

The consistent increase of learners enrolled in the adult learning centres

throughout the region over the past three years indicates the demand for educational upgrading programs. However, our region lacks a one-on-one tutoring service for adult learners who are not accessing the more formal educational environment of adult learning centres and college programs.

As a result of our work on this project, and to build on research we conducted in 1994-95, we have made a commitment to broaden literacy learning services in the Nechako region. We are currently working to raise grant funds to deliver, in 1997/98, a coordinated adult literacy tutoring program and to pilot a family literacy program with the Fraser Lake Adult Learning Centre.

*From the Northwest:***Hazelton - Learners Opportunity Group Society**

Contact: Karen Erickson
Phone: (250) 842-5291
Fax: (250) 842-5813

The Learners Opportunity Group is staffed by a half-time coordinator and managed by a community-based board of volunteers. The services provided by the Group include a volunteer tutor program, and literacy information and support to individuals and groups.

The communities we serve include: Kispiox, Glen Vowell, Hazelton, Gitanmaax, New Hazelton, Hagwilget, South Hazelton, Gitsegukla, Gitwangak, Kitwanga and Gitanyow.

Some of our literacy issues and interests are:

◆ Literacy and Learners

What are the various ways programs reach out to learners? Aside from volunteer tutor programs and classroom-based literacy programs, what other models can be used to provide literacy education?

◆ Literacy and Community

How can literacy programs be used to build connections between people in communities? How can literacy become an integral component of such community-building initiatives as local resource planning and sustainable development?

◆ Literacy and Culture

What are some of the cultural biases surrounding literacy education? How do we ensure our program is culturally competent and respectful of other cultures?

Houston Link to Learning

Contact: Dee McRae
Phone: (250) 845-2727
Fax: (250) 845-3521

Many educators feel the partnerships operating in Houston are the model to follow for education providers. For those of us working at The Learning Centre, decisions and partnerships arise according to what makes the most sense for the student, or as a way to meet a need. Houston Link to Learning is a partner in The Learning Centre, with Northwest Community College (NWCC), Morice Community Skills Centre and Houston Storefront School.

English as a Second Language classes have remained an area of constant need in the community. Since Link to Learning could not use cost-shared funding for this, The Learning Centre partners worked together to provide customized learning for several students. This includes a no-frills class, computer-based instruction, and one-on-one tutoring.

continued on page 20

"Houston Link to Learning" from page 19

We continue to offer a four-hour Super Basic Computer Course, twice in the fall and twice in January. The course is \$5.00. Instructors and tutors are volunteer. We want to continue identifying and removing the barriers for learners wishing to attend available courses. In the case of computer courses, many people are so uncomfortable with technology that they do not even consider taking a course. Many education providers are now computer-based, so basic computer literacy is often the first step in upgrading.

Our Learner's Event is planned for May. The committee is planning a workshop on non-verbal communication. Workshop sessions will include: theatre sports, mime, body language and sign language. It is planned to be fun and full of action.

Houston Link to Learning was successful in funding a project to consider injury prevention materials in terms of their readability. While it is not possible to say injuries are higher within the low literacy community, it is possible to distribute and create materials that are literacy level neutral (easy to read and understand). Not surprisingly, well-formatted, easy-to-read materials are also more likely to be read and understood by people with high literacy skills than materials that are poorly designed and written.

Our one-on-one tutor program continues with the training of several new tutors this month.

Literacy Kitimat

Contact: Janette Camazzola

Phone: (250) 632-3139

Fax: (250) 632-3368

This year our literacy funding from NWCC was lower because it was shared with new literacy programs in the Skeena area. Fortunately, donations from Alcan and the local telethon helped us survive under the continued protective umbrella of Kitimat Community Services Society (KCSS).

Since September, 14 new and 12 continuing students have received instruction from our tutor pool. Job Search, a program run by KCSS, has brought us several new students. Seven are now progressing through distance education towards Dogwood grade 12 certification.

Literacy Smithers

Contact: Jane Boulton

Phone: (250) 847-9515

Fax: (250) 847-3712

During our first fully funded year we spent time training and recruiting tutors. We developed a workshop, using the "cream of the crop" of past workshops. We have concluded two workshops and are looking forward to our third in May.

continued on page 21

"Literacy Smithers" from page 19

On the heels of these workshops, we continue to match students and tutors and support them in any way we can. We now have lunchtime tutor meetings to discuss such issues as working with people with mental challenges, and a mission statement for Literacy Services.

A tutor buddy system is in place where tutors can exchange ideas and concerns with a fellow tutor. We are also investigating the idea of a student buddy system.

We continue to examine effective marketing strategies to attract students to our program. The most interesting source of recruitment has come from our own tutors. Word-of-mouth is by far the most effective tool. We also focus on presenting written materials directed at the low literacy public. Students tell us our brochure appeals to them because it is at a level they understand, but is not condescending.

And about funding . . . this year marks the first year that NWCC earmarked funds to go directly to Literacy Services.

We are thriving and keen to begin another year of progress.

Terrace - Community Readers & Writers Project

Contact: Patricia Woods

Phone: (250) 638-1330

Fax: (250) 638-1331

Email: woods.rotering@osg.net

The Community Readers & Writers Project is a joint project of NWCC, the Terrace Volunteer Bureau, and the *Terrace Standard*, a local newspaper. An advisory committee of representatives from local community organizations was established to oversee this project.

In October 1996 we established an office and training room in the downtown Terrace Volunteer Bureau, to provide one-on-one tutoring in literacy, numeracy, and basic computer skills. The office has received referrals from HRDC, the college, our MP's office, local education groups, and community organizations. We also have walk-in students.

With the support of the *Terrace Standard*, we developed a literacy column in their weekly publication. Students have written articles for this column and we have received wonderful feedback, including some new students.

NWCC and the Terrace Volunteer Bureau have applied for 1997/98 cost-shared funding to continue the Community Readers & Writers program.

**Queen Charlotte Islands -
Haida Gwaii Learning Circle
Society**

Contact: John Farrell
Phone: (250) 559-2338
Fax: (250) 559-8121
Email: jfarrell@island.net

The word is out . . . The *Queen Charlotte Island Observer* now features a weekly literacy section called *News Start*. Each week two news stories are rewritten for new readers in plain language and a "Word-of-the-Week" is submitted by school-age children and community groups. A definition of the word-of-the-week, and an example of how the word is used in a sentence, are given.

Our public awareness campaign continues with feature articles in the Haida and regional newspapers, a newsletter, posters, booths at public events, and literacy contact cards distributed to professionals at all seven communities who are in regular contact with potential learners.

Volunteer tutor training sessions were held at both ends of the Islands during the fall. Seven learners have been matched with tutors. A second round of tutor training sessions took place in April. A literacy handbook was prepared for potential tutors to be used in conjunction with training workshops. Great care was taken to ensure the manual is relevant to those who live on these Islands.

Our latest venture is a basic computer literacy program which will soon be underway.

WORD OF THE WEEK

"Seeing my old fishing buddy was pure serendipity."

S e r e n d i p i t y (noun)

Making happy and unexpected discoveries by chance.

**Submitted by the Massett and Old Massett
Literacy Advisory Committee**

**Regional Literacy Coordinator
for Northern Lights****Contact:** May Boychuk**Phone:** (250) 782-5251**Fax:** (250) 782-6069**Email:** mboychuk@nlc.bc.ca

I have been the regional literacy coordinator in the Northern Lights region for just over one year. The challenge of getting in touch with literacy practitioners in such a large geographic region has certainly been worthwhile. It is an ongoing process as people find new and innovative ways to deliver literacy programs.

Professional development for the region has been a major focus. The Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. professional development event in Chetwynd provided the opportunity for literacy practitioners from the New Caledonia and Northern Lights regions to share information in formal and informal settings.

A family literacy presentation by Barbara Bate attracted people from the whole region including Lower Post, one of our most northern communities. People throughout the region are investigating the possibility of running family literacy programs in their communities.

Stacey Huget from Literacy B.C. provided three presentations on the findings and implications of IALS. These presentations were given to a cross-section of the community because of the implications for our social and economic future. One of the presentations was given at the Dawson Creek and District Chamber of Commerce lunch. The Chamber of Commerce in Dawson Creek has been very supportive of the regional literacy coordinator position and has provided the opportunity to share literacy-related information with the community, including the introduction of the family literacy stamp.

A need for ongoing communication within the region has been identified and, in order to meet this need, a regional newsletter will be available in the fall to keep practitioners informed of what is happening in the region.

The regional literacy resource collection is being catalogued and will be housed in the Fort. St. John Regional Library so that it can be accessed by everyone in the region.

I am still compiling information on the literacy programs in the region and hope to visit some of them in May.

Dawson Creek Literacy Society

Contact: May Boychuk
Phone: (250) 782-5251
Fax: (250) 782-6069
Email: mboychuk@nlc.bc.ca

Our small group is becoming more active in promoting literacy and providing support for learners. Volunteers helped learners access information about courses and learning opportunities to suit their needs. Tutor training is underway as a result of requests for individual help. Volunteers promoted International Literacy Day, Take 5 and READ, and encouraged the small post offices to carry and promote the family literacy stamp.

Fort St. John Literacy Society

Contact: Victoria Knox
Phone: (250) 785-2110
Fax: (250) 785-2127

This year in Fort St. John the community has thrown paper airplanes and hired Santas to support literacy work in our area. Both events were fun -- even for our volunteers -- and highly successful. We already have Santas signed up to deliver gifts next Christmas Eve. Both events generated numerous newspaper articles as well

as some radio interviews. Public awareness is the name of the game and people know we're here.

This was the first year we had funding to hire a coordinator for our Contact Centre. Our Centre provides regular contact with, and support to, volunteer tutors and learners. The coordinator participates in different helping networks in the community and this has increased awareness of our services. As a result, in the past year walk-in traffic increased tenfold and volunteer assistance tripled. The society has earned more in a year of Centre-coordinated fund raising than it did in six without.

When we needed extra manpower for our "Flight for Literacy" event we were able to recruit the leadership class at our local high school. The teens had a great time, were a tremendous help, and learned about literacy issues. The spin-off was that the teens later approached our staff about hosting a "battle of the bands" event as a fund raiser. They already had four bands ready to participate. They were also prepared to do all the promotion and ticket selling under our direction. Since most of these teens belonged to a local youth group, I approached the executive director of their clubhouse and he is now working with us and the teens to make this happen. We feel fortunate to have a community of teens with such caring and enthusiasm. The event is set for June 20.

continued on page 25

"Fort St. John Literacy Society " from page 24

Superior Propane's Fill for Literacy is still a go. This year we plan to hold a yard sale as well as our traditional barbecue. Our local fall fair celebrates its 50th anniversary and we are looking into the possibility of "cow patty bingo."

In anticipation of our AGM in September, we are holding a membership drive. We challenged all our board members to sell memberships. The member who sells the most will get dinner for two at an elegant restaurant here in town.

This year we have run two tutor training courses and increased our tutor/learner matches. Starting in May we will be holding monthly meetings for our tutors. This will be an opportunity to provide in-service as needed and for the tutors to network with each other.

In January we held a strategic planning meeting. We highly recommend you consider this if you don't currently do so. It generated great ideas, set priorities, and assisted us in developing a course of action. It also proved to be a morale booster and reignited our enthusiasm.

We believe next year will be a truly exciting adventure as we head off in new directions. We have applied for funding to set up a family literacy program and developed a network of community support. Also, we approached our local community college about the possibility of adding a literacy component to one of their continuing education programs. They think it's a great idea and suggested we do it for two courses. The possibilities are endless.

Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy Foundation Grants

Non-profit community literacy groups can apply for grants to develop materials for adult learners and their teachers through the Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy Foundation.

◆ **Seed Grants:** Up to \$2,500 to begin the process of creating literacy materials by developing an idea, performing a needs assessment, and creating a working sample of a project.

◆ **Production Grants:** Up to \$5,000 to produce materials for adult learners and their teachers. Applicants must submit a working sample of the project materials.

The application deadline is **June 30, 1997**. Contact:

Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy
Foundation
35 Spadina Road
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2S9
Phone: (416) 975-9366
Fax: (416) 975-1839

Educacentre**Contact:** Thérèse Guillemette**Phone:** (250) 388-7350**Fax:** (250) 388-6280**Focus sur l'alphabetisation familiale**

en 1997-98: De nouveaux groupes d'alphabetisation familiale ont vu le jour en C.B. de Kelowna à Courtenay et de Prince George à Surrey; 10 en tout. Une nouveauté depuis mars dernier; des ateliers de francisation familiale où le parent anglophone d'un couple exogame (français et anglais) apprend à mieux aider son enfant qui fréquente l'école francophone - et ce par le biais de cours de français dont les ressources pédagogiques utilisées sont celles dont le professeur de l'enfant se sert dans sa classe. Le parent anglophone a donc la possibilité de comprendre et de

pouvoir aider son enfant dans ses travaux scolaires. Les enfants se joignent au groupe de parents durant les journées pédagogiques ou les jours fériés afin de resserrer leurs liens familiaux en français.

L'Animathon: Le colloque provincial en alphabetisation offre une chance unique aux apprenant(e)s francophones de la C.B. de s'initier à l'art du dessin animé grâce à un atelier de deux jours et demi dirigé par André Leduc un auteur de dessins animés de l'Office National du Film (Jours de Plaine).

Nos apprenants travailleront avec une équipe professionnelle du cinéma d'animation ainsi qu'avec d'autres adultes venant de milieux les plus variés. L'Animathon aura lieu les 9 - 11 mai prochain à Vancouver.

French Family Literacy - Our

Main Focus for 1997/98: Ten new French family literacy groups were set up all over B.C. - from Kelowna to Courtenay and Prince George to Surrey. We developed a new concept called "Francisation Familiale." The anglophone parents in exogam (French and English) couples learn to help their children who are attending French as a first language schools. The parents learn French in courses where the instructor uses curriculum and activities from the children's classroom. This equips the parents to help their children with homework. We plan to extend this project to 15 groups next year.

"Animathon": The provincial meeting for French literacy will offer a workshop for francophone learners in Vancouver, May 9 - 11, 1997. They will learn the art of cartooning with the help of teammates whose backgrounds could be quite different. The resource person is André Leduc, a famous cartoonist from the National Film Board. This event will be in partnership with "Vision Ouest", a French cultural organization, the French School Board of B.C., and the Consortium en Education, a non-profit organization for the promotion of French education.



**B.C. Interior Field Services
Coordinator**

Contact: Jan Seedhouse
 Phone: 1-800-766-4660
 Fax: (250) 828-0636
 Email: laubach@mail.netshop.net

**Lower Mainland/Vancouver
Island Coordinator**

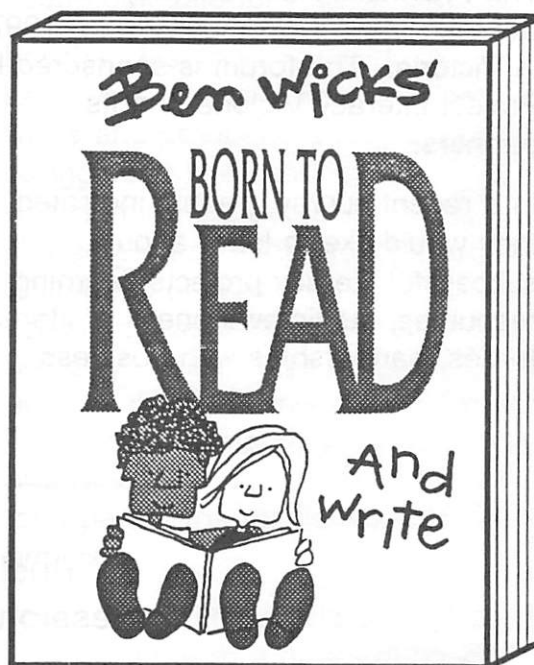
Contact: Anne Knott
 Phone: (604) 263-6606
 Fax: (604) 263-0661

This has been a busy year for Laubach in B.C. New councils were formed in Mission, Ashcroft/Cache Creek, Barriere, and Lillooet, and an existing group in Terrace joined Laubach as the northwest Laubach Council. Jan has been travelling wherever invited, training tutors and helping new groups get started.

Laubach Literacy of Canada was one of the co-sponsors of Ben Wicks' booklet *Born to Read and Write* which was distributed to all Canadian school children from kindergarten to grade 3 in November 1996. A record-breaking two million copies were produced and distributed.

In May we are planning two ESL workshops in Vancouver, one for trained Laubach tutors and one open to the public. There will also be a trainers' workshop for apprentice trainers.

We have a new catalogue of *New Readers Press* (NRP) materials for beginning adult readers. It contains Canadian history, geography, and biography books, which are sometimes hard to find. These and other NRP books have been donated to the provincial literacy resource centre at Literacy B.C. where you can borrow them.



This lighthearted guide for parents has cartoons and ideas about how to help children read and write.

The booklet can be purchased by literacy organizations for \$1.00 (plus GST) and then resold for \$2.00 to assist with fund raising, literacy initiatives, or other community events.

Fax your order to:
 (416) 925-8710

For further information, contact:

Joanne Dicaire
 Phone: (416) 967-0338 

Call for Workshop Presenters - Provincial Adult Literacy Forum

Showcase your literacy work at the first major adult literacy conference in B.C. since Literacy 2000 in 1990.

The Provincial Adult Literacy Forum will take place November 28-29, 1997 in Victoria. The forum is sponsored by Project Literacy Victoria and its partners.

In a recent survey, people indicated they would like to learn about successful literacy projects, learning resources, public awareness of literacy issues, partnerships with business,

coordination among agencies, literacy in the workplace, access to literacy programs, and current research.

If you have an idea for a workshop you would like to present at the forum, send it by **May 16, 1997** to:

Susan Kurushima
Project Literacy Victoria
930A Yates Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 4Z3

Phone: (250) 381-3755
Fax: (250) 381-4911

Or email Ian Wade at:
wade@camosun.bc.ca

Pushing the Edges - Professional Development Event

The Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. will offer a professional development event in Kelowna, September 26 - 27, 1997.

Pushing the Edges will present four to six workshop sessions designed for a thorough presentation of ideas with time for practice and discussion.

Topics may include:

- ◆ Funding policy and its implications for delivery of ABE programming
- ◆ Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect

- ◆ A critical look at education and technology
- ◆ Worker education.

If you have ideas for other workshops, contact:

Patty Bossort in New Denver
Phone: (250) 358-2745
Fax: (250) 358-2746
Email: 75060.3120@compuserve.com

Don Sawyer in Salmon Arm
Phone: (250) 832-2126
Fax: (250) 832-4368



**By Linda Mitchell, Executive Director
Literacy B.C.**

In March 1997, I was appointed as the Literacy BC representative to the Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) for a two-year term.

MCL recently conducted an Organizational Needs Assessment to find out how it can better serve the literacy community in Canada. On March 20, a new constitution and bylaws were passed at the MCL Annual General Meeting. The new bylaws are designed to make MCL a more effective national voice for provincial and territorial literacy organizations.

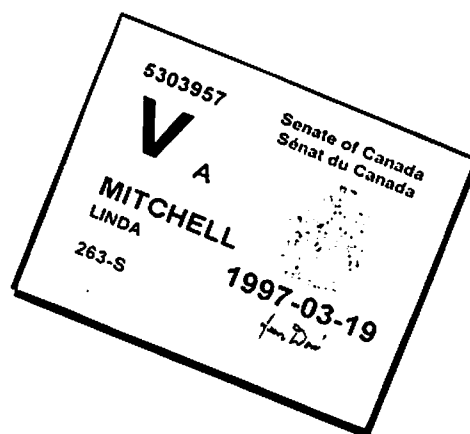
The bylaws also created a permanent Learners Committee. Brenda Lee Giles was appointed to represent Literacy B.C. on this committee.

The Learners Committee has already begun its work. It has advised national groups such as the Consumers Association of Canada and the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors on ways to make material and services "literacy friendly."

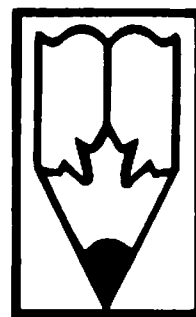
MCL has continued to work hard at keeping literacy on the public policy agenda in the past few months. We have made presentations to the Standing Committee for Employment Insurance Reform (Bill C-12) and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance.

MCL also helped to coordinate "Literacy Action Day," on March 19 on

Parliament Hill. Along with MCL board members from across Canada and the representatives of other national organizations, I had the opportunity to lobby Members of Parliament about the importance of literacy and what they can do to support it. 



**Movement
for Canadian
Literacy**



Craig McNaughton, Executive Director
Movement for Canadian Literacy
458 MacLaren Street, Second Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 5K6

Phone: (613) 563-2464

Fax: (613) 563-2504

Email: mcl@magi.com

WWW: <http://www.nald.ca/mcl/mcl2.htm>

New Resources

On the next five pages are descriptions of the products of B.C. literacy cost-shared projects.

Two books celebrate storytelling by new writers . . .

Writers, Young and Old . . .

This collection of 29 stories tells us of the experiences of new writers, both young and old, in Prince George.

The stories were written by members of the Prince George Seniors' Writing Circles and fundamental level English students at the College of New Caledonia.

The writers first shared their experiences orally, which gave them the confidence to put their stories on paper. "It took great courage and determination for all the authors in this book to overcome feelings of "I can't write . . . I have nothing of importance to say," says instructor Maree Thair.

When I was 10 years old and my sister was almost 12, we were looking in the new [Eaton's] Spring catalogue and wishing for the two piece suits for young girls. Actually, the ladies' fashion pages had their version too, which was a three quarter length coat

and matching skirt. My brother who was a young school teacher, overheard us and asked how much they cost. "Eight dollars a suit," we said. Now I know, he wasn't making a lot of money then, teaching in a one room country school, but he told us to order them, and he would pay for them. We felt like the two best dressed young girls in our town that year.

This is a very special memory in my life because when the war broke out my dear brother put his teaching job on hold in 1939 to serve his country. Then, like many other young men, he made the supreme sacrifice. Killed in action, 1944!

From Eaton's Catalogue by
Laura Dunford

Phone 1-800-663-1293 for your copy of *Writers, Young and Old*.

change

The stories in this collection emerged from weekly sessions when women and children from the east side of Vancouver met to tell, read and write stories.

The sessions, facilitated by established storytellers, were part of a project called *Spreading the Word* that took place at the MacDonald Elementary School and Britannia Community Centre between September 1995 and June 1996. *Spreading the Word* was designed to make clear the connections between the telling, writing and publishing of stories, for both first-time and established storytellers.

I had to leave Vietnam in 1986. I went by boat. My boat came to Hong Kong Island but we could not get to the

island because the wind was so strong, we could not row the boat. My boat had no engine. My boat floated on the sea one month and six days. But the first six days we had food and one month we were without food. We were lucky we had a lot of water. That's why we did not die. The time in the sea I was very hungry and cold.

One morning we heard engine sound from another boat. We were very happy and stood up to call them to come to help but they didn't come and ran away.

From *The Boat*, by Sau Thi

A copy of *change* is available for borrowing from Literacy B.C.

Breaking the Cycle

The easy-to-read information in this book is designed to help parents with learning disabilities break the cycle of low literacy within their families.

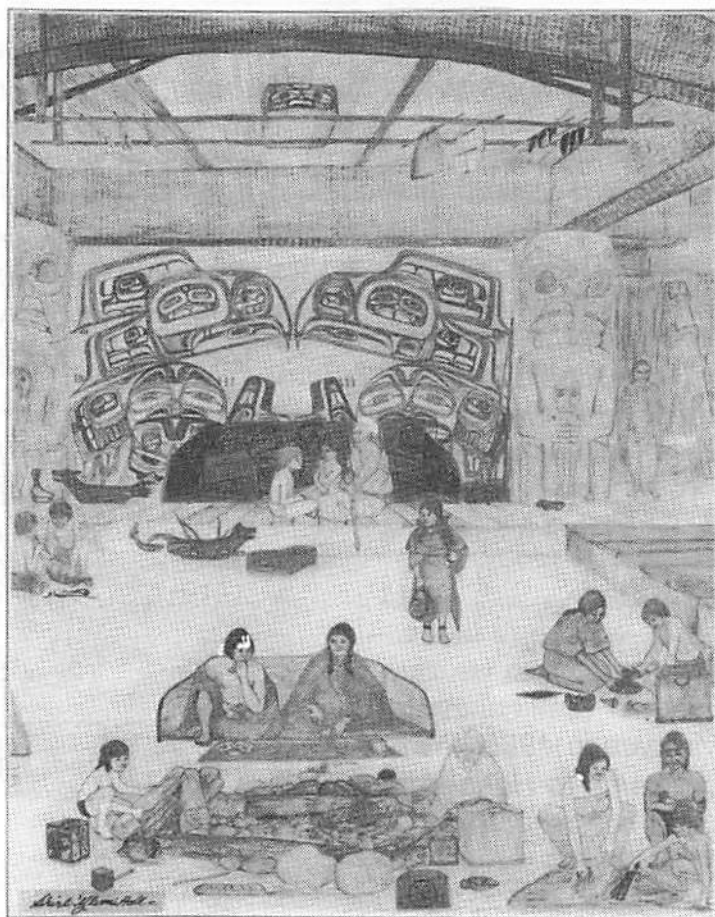
The book is the product of a series of workshops held by Project Literacy Victoria.

Topics covered in the book include:

- ◆ Understanding learning disabilities
- ◆ Going to bat: helping your child at school
- ◆ Managing anger
- ◆ Learning together.

Breaking the Cycle is available from Literacy B.C.

Traditional Heiltsuk Food



The traditional food of the Heiltsuk is featured in this book of recipes.

The book was produced by students in the basic literacy class of Heiltsuk College in Waglisla, near Bella Bella, B.C.

The elders of Bella Bella taught the students how to collect, hunt, and gather food. They also taught them how to clean, prepare, and cook it.

Traditional Heiltsuk Food is available from Literacy B.C.

Barbecued salmon stew

Into a large pot:

1. Cut up potatoes, carrots, and onions.
2. Cover with water and bring to a boil.
3. Add two tablespoons of ooligan grease.¹
4. Add one quart of jarred, or one frozen barbecued salmon.
5. Add more water if needed: some people like to add macaroni.
6. Serve with hot tea biscuits.

¹ Ooligans are small river fish that are an important trade food for the native people of the B.C. Interior and North West Coast.

The Media Project

This pilot project was designed to use television to teach reading to students who will not or cannot attend traditional classes.

Sponsored by the University College of the Cariboo, the project produced ten literacy lessons in half-hour video tape format. The lessons were aired by Kamloops Cablenet. Printed activity sheets corresponding to the video lessons were distributed in the *Kamloops Daily News* prior to the twice weekly broadcast of each lesson.

The lessons present materials at different levels and use a multi-sensory approach.

You can borrow a complete set of the video and print lessons from Literacy B.C. or order (for approximately \$20) from:

Reg McNamara
University College of the Cariboo
Box 3010
Kamloops, B.C. V2C 5N3
Phone: (250) 828-5283
Fax: (250) 371-5514

Guidelines for Developing a Workplace Education Program for Practitioners

This guidebook is designed to provide those who offer practitioner training in workplace education with a framework for a two-week training course.

The materials in the guidebook represent the collective effort of facilitators from the Workplace Education Course at Literacy B.C.'s 1996 Summer Literacy Institute. The guidebook was prepared by Sue Folinsbee and Nancy Steel of ABC CANADA's Workplace Education Centre in Toronto.

The workplace training course described in the guidebook is not meant to be used as is but to be tailored to people's needs, interests

and experience. The guidebook contains 11 modules including:

- ◆ Understanding business and labour perspectives
- ◆ Developing a joint labour management committee
- ◆ The role of the educator
- ◆ Workplace basic skills analysis
- ◆ Positioning workplace basic education with employees
- ◆ Curriculum and program development.

Copies of the guidebook are available from Literacy B.C.

Aunt Mabel learns about literacy in the Northwest . . .

May 5, 1997

Dear Aunt Mabel:

I just finished reading Karen Erickson's letters to you about literacy in the Hazelton area, in the Northwest region of B.C.

I really enjoyed Karen's letters. They told me a lot about the human and community issues behind literacy in that area of the province. Karen's letters also told me about the literacy action plan developed by the Learners Opportunity Group Society.

It was especially interesting to read about the Gitksan -- who form the majority of the population in that area -- and the impact their rich oral tradition has for the development of literacy.

If others want to read Karen's letters to you, they can contact us at Literacy B.C. for a copy of her report: **Letters to Aunt Mabel: Thoughts and Plans for Literacy Development, Final Report, 1996.**

As ever,

Sandy